

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §112

In the first paragraph of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-50 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. In the second paragraph of the Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-50 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By this Response, independent claims 1, 22, 32, and 42 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. As filed, and unlike claims 1, 22, 32, and 42, independent claim 10 did not include any language relating to the independent deployment of the pins. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner remove these rejections and allow the claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §102

In the third paragraph of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-9, 22-23, 27-31, 42-44 and 47-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,882,771 ("Blazek"). Applicants respectfully transverse these rejections.

In order for a reference to constitute a §102(b) bar to patentability, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 771, 218 USPQ 781, 789 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Applicants respectfully submit that Blazek does not disclose each and every element of claims 1-3, 7-9, 22-23, 27-31, 42-44 and 47-50.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a jaw assembly for use in a vise and requires, among other things, a plurality of channels passing through a portion of a block, *each of the channels having a first segment in fluid connection with an inlet hole* and a second segment in fluid communication with at least one aperture. The Examiner has construed Blazek to disclose blocks 3, 5; apertures 10; air ports/channels 17; a single inlet hole 16; and, a plurality of pins 11. As shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, Blazek discloses a plurality of air ports 17, connected to the single inlet 16. (See Col. 2, lns. 20-

25). Specifically, three air ports 17 are connected to just a single inlet 16 resulting in a 3:1 ratio of channels to inlet hole. In contrast, amended claim 1 requires the first portion of *each* channel to be in fluid connection with an inlet hole, (thereby requiring multiple inlet holes) and resulting in a 1:1 ratio of channels to inlet holes. Blazek does not disclose or suggest a plurality of channels wherein the first segment of each channel is in fluid connection with an inlet hole. Consequently, claim 1 is patentably distinct and is neither anticipated by nor suggested by Blazek.

Claims 2, 3, and 7-9 depend from amended claim 1 and thereby require all of the elements of claim 1. For the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, these claims are patentably distinct and are neither anticipated by nor suggested by Blazek.

Amended claim 22 is directed to a jaw assembly for use in supporting and securing an object in a vise and requires, among other things, a block having a first and second channel, each of the channels having a first segment and second segment, the first segments in fluid connection with a *first inlet hole* and the second segments in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures, the block further having a third and fourth channel, each of the channels having a first segment and second segment, the first segments in fluid connection with a *second inlet hole* and the second segments in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures. As explained above, Blazek discloses a plurality of air ports 17 connected to just a single inlet 16 resulting in a 3:1 ratio of channels to inlet hole. In contrast, amended claim 22 requires first and second channels connected to a *first* inlet hole, and third and fourth channels connected to a *second* inlet hole. Blazek does not disclose or suggest these aspects of amended claim 22. Accordingly, claim 22 is patentably distinct and is neither anticipated by nor suggested by Blazek.

Claims 23, 27-29, and 31 depend from amended claim 22 and thereby require all of the elements of claim 22. For the reasons stated above with respect to claim 22, these claims are patentably distinct and are neither anticipated by nor suggested by Blazek.

Amended claim 30 depends from amended claim 22 and further requires that pins within apertures of a common channel are concurrently deployable to a use position and independently retractable to a non-use position. On page three of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that, "...fluid can be applied independently to each row of pins." Applicants respectfully submit that this

interpretation of Blazek is incorrect because the 3:1 ratio of channels to inlet hole causes fluid to be applied to all channels at the same time. Consequently, the independent application of fluid to each channel and the concurrent deployment of pins within a common channel is precluded. For this reason and the reasons explained above with respect to independent claim 22, claim 30 is patentably distinct from Blazek.

Amended claim 42 is directed to a jaw assembly for use in a vise and requires, among other things, a block having a first set, a second set, and a third set of apertures spaced a distance from the deck surface, the block further having a first, a second, and a third longitudinal channel passing through a portion of the block, *each of the channels having a first segment in fluid connection with an inlet hole* and a second segment in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures. As explained above with respect to claim 1, Blazek does not disclose or suggest a plurality of channels wherein the first segment of each channel is in fluid connection with an inlet hole. Consequently, claim 42 is patentably distinct and is neither anticipated by nor suggested by Blazek.

Claims 43, 44, and 47-50 depend from amended claim 42 and thereby require all of the elements of claim 42. For the reasons stated above with respect to claim 42, these claims are patentably distinct and are neither anticipated by nor suggested by Blazek.

Applicant has added claim 51, which is properly supported by written disclosure in the specification. Applicant submits that this claim is patentably distinct over Blazek.

Serial No. 09/757,725  
August 23, 2002  
Page 8

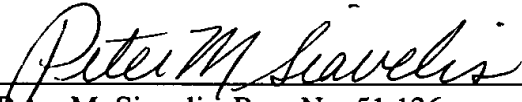
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believes the application is in a condition for allowance, and respectfully requests early notice of same. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney if the Examiner has any questions concerning this Response, or if it will expedite the progress of this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 23, 2002

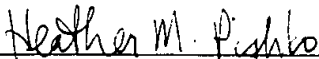
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**Attachment A: Marked-Up Version of Claims In Accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121**

1. (Amended) A jaw assembly for use in a vise, comprising:
  - a block having a plurality of apertures, the block further having a plurality of channels passing through a portion of the block, each of the channels having a[n] first segment in fluid connection with an inlet hole and having a second segment in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures; and,
  - a plurality of pins, wherein each pin is located within an aperture and wherein each pin is [independently] deployable to a use position and retractable to a non-use position.
4. (Amended) The jaw assembly of claim 1 wherein the channels are in a rear surface of the [plate] block.
10. (Amended) A jaw assembly for use in supporting and securing an object in a vise, comprising:
  - a block having a plurality of apertures, the block further having a plurality of channels in a rear surface of the block, each of the channels having a[n] first segment in fluid connection with an inlet hole and having a second segment in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures;
  - a plate secured to the rear surface of the block, the plate adapted to enclose the channels; and,
  - a plurality of pins, wherein each pin is located within an aperture and is in slidable engagement with the particular aperture.
12. (Amended) The jaw assembly of claim 10 wherein [each pin is independently] pins within apertures of a common channel are concurrently deployable to a use position and independently retractable to a non-use position.
22. (Amended) A jaw assembly for use in supporting and securing an object in a vise, comprising:
  - a block having a plurality of apertures, wherein each aperture is spaced a distance from a lower edge of the block, the block further having a [plurality of generally longitudinal channels] first and second channel passing through a portion of the block, each of the channels having a[n] first segment and second segment, the first segments in fluid connection with a[n] first inlet hole and the second segments in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures, the block further having a third and fourth channel passing through a portion of the block, each of the channels having a first segment and second segment, the first segments in fluid connection with a second inlet hole and the second segments in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures;
  - a plurality of pins, wherein each pin is located within an aperture and each pin is [independently] deployable to a use position and retractable to a non-use position.

30. (Amended) The jaw assembly of claim 23 wherein the pins[, when deployed to the use position, form a support structure that supports the object in an elevated position above a deck surface of the vise] within apertures of a common channel are concurrently deployable to a use position and independently retractable to a non-use position..
32. (Amended) A jaw assembly for use in supporting and securing an object in a vise, comprising:  
a block having a plurality of apertures, wherein each aperture is spaced a distance from a lower edge of the block, the block further having a [plurality of generally longitudinal channels] first and second channel passing through a rear surface of the block, each of the channels having a first segment and second segment, the first segments in fluid connection with a[n] first inlet hole and the second segments in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures, the block further having a third and fourth channel passing through the rear surface of the block, each of the channels having a first segment and second segment, the first segments in fluid connection with a second inlet hole and the second segments in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures;  
a plate secured to the rear surface of the block, the plate adapted to enclose the channels; and,  
a plurality of pins, wherein each pin is located within an aperture and each pin is [independently] deployable to a use position and retractable to a non-use position.
42. (Amended) A jaw assembly for use in a vise, the jaw assembly permitting an object to be worked upon to be secured and supported at an elevated position, the assembly comprising:  
a block having a first set, a second set, and a third set of apertures spaced a distance from the deck surface, the block further having a first, a second, and a third longitudinal channel passing through a portion of the block, each of the channels having a first segment in fluid connection with an inlet hole and a second segment in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures; and,  
a plurality of pins, wherein each pin is located within an aperture and wherein each pin is [independently] deployable to a use position and retractable to a non-use position.
47. (Amended) The jaw assembly of claim 4[2]6 including a means for securing the plate to the block.
51. (Added) A jaw assembly for use in a vise, comprising:  
a block having a plurality of apertures, the block further having a first inlet hole in fluid connection with at least one channel passing through a rear surface of the block, the channel having a portion in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures, the block further having a second inlet hole in fluid connection with at least one channel passing through the rear surface of the block, the channel having a portion in fluid communication with at least one of the apertures;  
a plate secured to the rear surface of the block, the plate adapted to enclose the

Serial No. 09/757,725

August 23, 2002

Page 11

channels; and,

a plurality of pins, wherein each pin is located within an aperture and wherein each pin is deployable to a use position and retractable to a non-use position.